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NEW! EXULT 131K



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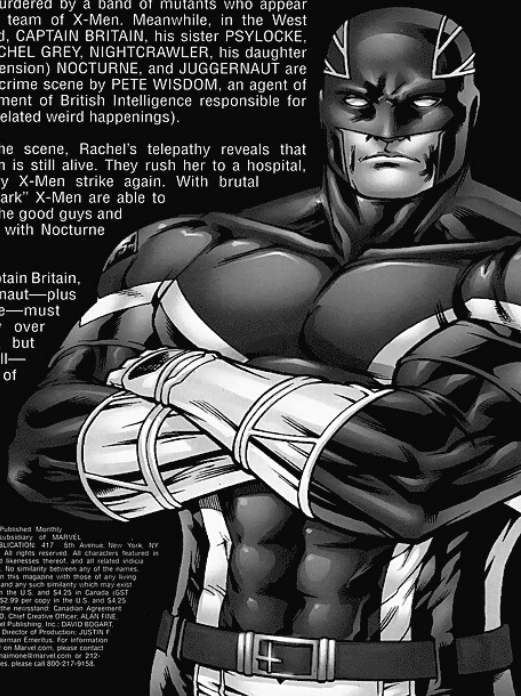
Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

For mutants, the event called M-Day forever changed the shape of their world and future. In a single instant, virtually all of Earth's mutants lost their powers. From a one-time global population of millions, barely two hundred remain.

In London, former X-MAN and current dive-bar singer DAZZLER is attacked and murdered by a band of mutants who appear to be the original team of X-Men. Meanwhile, in the West Country of England, CAPTAIN BRITAIN, his sister PSYLOCKE, KITTY PRYDE, RACHEL GREY, NIGHTCRAWLER, his daughter (from another dimension) NOCTURNE, and JUGGERNAUT are summoned to the crime scene by PETE WISDOM, an agent of MI-13 (the department of British Intelligence responsible for super heroes and related weird happenings).

Upon arrival at the scene, Rachel's telepathy reveals that (impossibly) Alison is still alive. They rush her to a hospital, where the mystery X-Men strike again. With brutal efficiency these "dark" X-Men are able to take down half of the good guys and manage to escape with Nocturne in tow!

Now, Wisdom, Captain Britain, Dazzler and Juggernaut—plus new arrival Sage—must triumph not only over these evil X-Men, but their leader as well—the shadow twin of Charles Xavier!



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LONDON

COMIN'
THROUGH
HERE!

GEDDOUTTADA WAY!

THOM THOM THOM

OH
GEEZ!

EEEK!

I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY!

BEEP!

KRANG!

SKREECH!

THUD!

GET
OUT THE
ROAD, YEH
STUPID
GIT!

MOVE IT,
WILLYA?!

SHADOWS ON THE SOUL!

CRASH!!

AWH...
GEEZ!

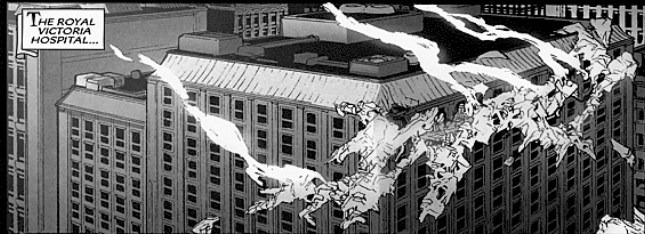
Twelve
Presents
**new
EXCALIBUR**

By CHRIS
CLAEMONT &
MICHAEL
RYAN

RICK KETCHAM Inker, TOM ORZECZKOWSKI Letterer, PETER PANTAZIS Colors
SERAH RYAN Assistant Editor, NICK LOWE Associate Editor, MIKE HARRIS Editor
JOE QUESADA Editor in Chief, DAN BUCKLEY Publisher



THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL...



MEANWHILE,
TRAPPED INSIDE
NOCTURNE'S
PSYCHE...

HOW
YOU DOIN',
KITTY?

TRUTH,
RACHEL? I'VE
HAD BETTER
DAYS.

SO FAR, WE'VE
BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT OFF
THAT BOGUS PROFESSOR
XAVIER.

BUT
EACH TIME,
WE LOSE A
LITTLE MORE
GROUND.

HE'S DOING
TO US WHAT HE DID
TO HIS X-MEN.

WHEN WE
LOOK LIKE THEM,
WE'LL BE LIKE
THEM!

MY SENSORS REVEAL A TWIST IN THE
EKG READINGS FROM KITTY AND RACHEL
CONSISTENT WITH A MASSIVE AND
ONGOING TELEPATHIC ASSAULT.

I CANNOT
BLOCK THE
ATTACKS, AND
EVEN IF I RESTORE
THEIR PSYCHES
TO THEIR BODIES,
THAT WON'T
HELP...

...THE THREAT MUST
BE NEUTRALIZED AT
ITS SOURCE.

THEN LET'S
GET
CRACKING.

I'M
GOOD
TO GO,
GUYS--

--SOON
AS WE FIND
ME SOME CLOTHES.

WILL THESE DO?

COURTNEY!

WHAT'RE
YOU--?

BRILLIANT!

BUT
WHERE--?!

FROM
SAGE.





NICE TOYS.

MERELY TOOLS, PROVIDING ACCESS TO DATA.

WHAT'S ALL THIS GOING TO DO, LUV?



WE CAN FIND AND FOLLOW THESE X-MEN TO GET NOCTURNE BACK. WISDOM, BUT THIS IS NO SIMPLE FEAT.



OUR ADVERSARIES HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES AS FORMIDABLE AS THE ORIGINAL X-MEN.

WHY IS CHARLES XAVIER ACTING THIS WAY?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR ORIGIN AND PURPOSE CAN WAIT—OUR IMMEDIATE AND PRIMARY GOAL MUST BE THEIR DEFEAT.

WORKS FOR ME.



WE MUST ASSUME THAT EVERY UNTRAINED MIND AROUND US IS IN SOME WAY COMPROMISED. HE'LL HAVE SPIES EVERYWHERE.

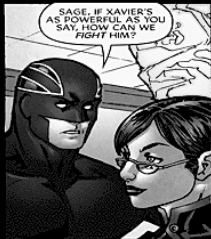
VERY NASTY.

IF I REVEAL OUR PLANS IN ADVANCE, HE MAY PLUCK THEM FROM YOUR THOUGHTS. OUR BEST CHANCE IS SPEED AND SURPRISE.

YOU MUST TRUST ME, AND OBEY WITHOUT HESITATION.



DON'T ASK MUCH, DO YOU, LUV?

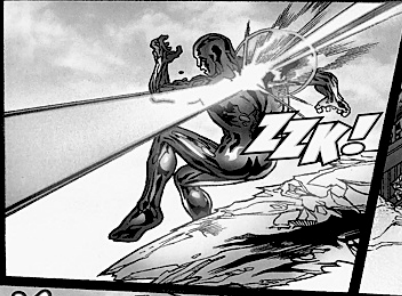














YOU WEAR MY COLORS WELL.

ONCE YOU DON THESE HELMETS, YOUR CORRUPTION WILL BE COMPLETE.

WE'LL FIND-- A WAY-- TO BEAT YOU!



YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST TO DEFEY ME SO.

YOU WILL NOT BE THE LAST. BUT IN THE END-- WHAT?!



CRETINS-- MUST I DO EVERYTHING MYSELF?!



WHATEVER'S HAPPENING WITH US, SOUNDS LIKE HE'S HAVING SOME TROUBLE OUTSIDE.

HE MAY HAVE MY NUMBER, KITTY, BUT I'VE GOT HIS, TOO.

ALL I NEED IS A DISTRACTION--!



MINDING LANE TO DUNSTER COURT-- SEETHING TO FEELS--

HEY, SAGE-- HOW COME NO COPS?

I'VE BEEN KEEPING THEM BUSY.



HOLY--!

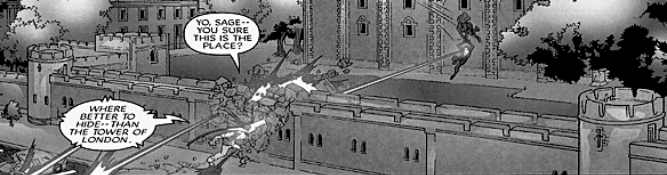
LOOK OUT!

HARRY!



WHAT WAS THAT?!

DUNNO-- BUT I'M GLAD IT'S NOT AFTER US!





WHEN
YOU DROP AN
ADVERSARY,
ICEMAN...



--YOU
SHOULD
ALWAYS
MAKE SURE
HE'S
FINISHED!



THUD!



THIS
ONE'S
FINISHED.
CAP.



YOU DON'T
GET AWAY FROM
ME THAT EASILY,
SONGBIRD.



THE
MASTER
WANTS
YOUR FRIEND
ALIVE.

BUT
YOU ARE
TOTALLY
MINE TO
PLAY
WITH!

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH.



WE'RE DOING
WELL--
ANGEL DOWN,
ICEMAN DOWN,
BEAST--



WHO'S THE
SMART ONE
NOW?



LET ME
THINK ABOUT
THAT FOR A
SECOND.







ICING
ONNA
CAKE!

I GOT SOME
BROTHERLY
AGGRESSIONS TO
GET OUT.

THE FACT
YER WALKIN'
ONLY MAKES
IT BETTER!

ALMOST
A FAIR
FIGHT.

NOTHING
IS "FAIR"
BETWEEN US,
WRETCH.

I HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN THE
SUPERIOR
BEING.



PROVE
IT.



WITHOUT
YOUR ARMOR
AND HELMET FOR
PROTECTION, YOU ARE
NOTHING BUT BRUTE
MUSCLE.



I CAN FRY YOUR
PITIFUL BRAIN JUST LIKE
I DID TO MY REALITY'S
JUGGERNAUT.



BE ONE
WITH MY
SHADOW.



I OFFER
GLORIES BEYOND
COMPREHENSION.

NEVER!

SPLENDID

YOU BOTH
WILL
WORSHIP--

GWUH!

GOTCHA!

WHAT???

THAT
WAS THE
OPENING
I WAS
WAITING
FOR.

SOMETHING
OUTSIDE
HIT HIS
BODY
HARD.

GAVE ME THE
SHOT I NEEDED
TO NAIL HIS
PSYCHE!

HEY--
LOOK AT OUR
CLOTHES!

THE PSYCHIC
BARRIERS ARE
GONE, KITTY.
WE CAN GO
HOME!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED OUT
THERE, BUT I'M
SURE GLAD IT
DID.

SAY
G'NIGHT,
GRACIE.

YOU'RE
DONE.



SO, WHAT HAPPENS NOW--

--TO US--TO THEM?

I'M SURE MI-13 HAS SOMEWHERE... APPROPRIATE TO PUT THEM.



BETTER BE A PRETTY SPECIAL PRISON TO HOLD THEM.

THAT WAS PRETTY UNDERHANDED, WISDOM.

WASN'T ABOUT TO HAVE A GO AT HIM FACE-TO-FACE NOW, WAS I?



SUPER HEROES ARE EXPECTED TO BIDE BY A CERTAIN CODE OF CONDUCT.

I'M AN AGENT OF THE CROWN, CAPTAIN.

I FOLLOW A DIFFERENT CODE.

THAT'S THE WISDOM I REMEMBER.

AN' THERE'S THE PRYDE I WON'T FORGET.



PETE'S MANTRA IS, "WHATEVER GETS THE JOB DONE."

HE'S ALMOST AS HARDCORE AS SAGE.

GUYS, WAS IT REALLY THE PROFESSOR WE WERE FIGHTING?

I DUNNO HOW WE FIND OUT.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE NEAR HIS PSYCHE.

WE COULD TAKE THEM BACK TO THE INSTITUTE.



THEY COMMITTED
CRIMES ON BRITISH
SOIL, KURT. WE'LL
KEEP 'EM.

YOU'RE
WELL OBE
TO STAY AS
WELL.



ARE YOU OFFERING US ASYLUM?

YOU INTERESTED?

THANK YOU, TRULY.

BUT OUR
PLACE--IS
AMONG THE
X-MEN.



SUIT'CHERSELF.

WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
CAPTAIN?

I'M NOT JUST
CAPTAIN BRITAIN.
WISDOM.



AS MONARCH OF
OTHERWORLD...

...I'M BOUND
BY GREATER
RESPONSIBILITIES.

TAKE
CARE, BABY
BROTHER.



LIVE LONG, BETSY, LIVE WELL!

DAMMIT--
YOU'RE
NEEDED NOW
MORE THAN
EVER.



WHAT ABOUT
YOU LOT,
THEN, EH?

I'D
LOVE
TO--

--BUT I THINK I'M S'POSED TO
BE UNDER ARREST, AGAIN.

SORRY, WISDOM, BUT
A GALS GOTTA KNOW
HER LIMITATIONS.

I'M A SINGER.
I DON'T SAVE THE
WORLD ANYMORE.

COUNT
ME IN,
SPORT.
WHEN DO
WE
START?!



I UNDERSTAND HOW THE
TOSSER FEELS, BUT I JUST
DON'T CARE.

WITH 90% OF
MUTANTS POWERLESS
AND THEN THESE EVIL
X-BUGGERS,
SOMETHING IS WRONG
AND WE NEED
TO RIGHT IT.



SOD OTHERWORLD. THIS REALM
NEEDS EXCALIBUR AND EXCALIBUR
NEEDS CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

I AIM
TO SEE IT
GETS THEM
BOTH.

NEXT:
**OLD TIMES
NOW
ARE NOT
FORGOTTEN!**

SWORD STROKES

JANUARY
ON-SALE 2005
X-Men Titles

SON OF M 2: Quicksilver's powerlessness and everyone hates him. What is he willing to do to get his powers back and what do the Inhumans have to do with it?

UNCANNY X-MEN 468: The Grey family is dead. Marvel Girl wants payback. No C.O.D.'s.

GENERATION M 3: Decimation continues to turn the world upside down. Follow Sally Floyd as she explores the lives of former mutants. In this issue, discover the fate of Blob!

ASTONISHING X-MEN SAGA: Remember how great Astonishing X-Men is? Well, even if you do, pick this up and fall in love with it all over again!

SENTINEL SQUAD O'N'E 1: Where did these new manned Sentinels come from? Well, read this book and find out!

NEW X-MEN 22: William Stryker is back and has his heart set on the end of all mutants! Hey New X-Men, why don't ya do something about that!

X-MEN: THE 198 1: The remaining mutants are in more danger than ever before. The only place to turn is Xavier's. But will they find safety, or peril?

X-MEN: DEADLY GENESIS 3: Somebody's dead. We'll give you a hint: he's a big Lucky Charms fan!

CABLE/DEADPOOL 24: Who loves shameless guest-stars? Deadpool does, 'cause he's fighting the heck out of Spider-Man in this issue!

NEW EXCALIBUR 3: The Dark X-Men are here! Fear them and don't get in their way! The team isn't doing either of these things, and you know what that means...them getting punched in the face!

X-MEN THE END: BOOK THREE 1: The beginning of the end, or is it the end of the end? Well, whatever it is, it starts here!

EXILES 75 & 76: The World Tour continues! And it's time to party like it's 2099!

X-MEN 181: Polaris and Havok discover a strange creature that has fallen from space. What is it? And is that Doop on the cover?!

X-MEN: COLOSSUS - BLOODLINE 5: The conclusion is here! Is Colossus a murderer? Could he kill his own brother? Does he like the new T.A.T.U. album?

X-FACTOR 3: The team is strained and falling apart! Come on, Layla Miller, help us out! You know stuff!

WOLVERINE 38: Wolverine has his memories back. And he remembers every single person that's ever given him hell. Yeah, you should be nervous.

MYTHOS: X-MEN: Witness the birth of the X-Men in a whole new light, written by Paul Jenkins and painted by Paolo Rivera!

NEXTWAVE 1: Warren Ellis plus Stuart Immonen multiplied by explosions and divided by more explosions equals the greatest book ever! Eat your heart out, Bible! Eat it!

The reviews are in, and you people love NEW EXCALIBUR! Well, at least the people writing in seem to like it. Thanks for the letters. And now it's time to answer them. Tally ho!

Hello NEW EXCALIBUR,

What a wonderful way to start off a series! Chris Claremont's writing is as wonderful as it always is, and the interior art was quite well done. I had taken a sabbatical from Marvel books for some time because in my opinion the quality had dropped to such a poor level it wasn't worth the time or the effort. I am glad that I am here for the relaunch of this title because it looks like the quality is finally back.

I loved the dialogue between Kitty Pryde and Pete Wisdom. It was so classic that I felt like no time had passed since I had seen them in these pages. All the memories came flooding back and I gotta say it was a most welcome feeling. I have to admit that I am not sorry to see Meggan missing from these pages though—hmm, is that shame on me?

Well I just wanted to say thank you for now. I am looking forward to seeing what is to come and once the first story arc is over I will let you know what I thought.

Steven Letiman
Cincinnati, Ohio

Glad to have you back, Steven. Sorry the rest of our books weren't what you were looking for, but we've made NEW EXCALIBUR just for you. AND FOR NO ONE ELSE! The rest of you are lucky that you like what Steven likes. And shame on you for talking bad about Meggan, she was just here talking about how cool she thinks YOU are. You can be really inconsiderate sometimes, Steven. I mean, really.

Dear Sword Strokes,

I have to give it up for Chris Claremont and Michael Ryan--the first issue was nearly jaw-dropping! I couldn't put the book down even if my house was on fire! I really hope that Ryan will remain part of this book, I don't think I could stand anyone else drawing Nocturne, she has to be the sexiest thing ever.

While I've got your attention, maybe you can clear up something with my beloved T.J. Since when did she ever have a "retractable" tail? What's up with that?

Until next time, Make Mine Marvel!!
Princess Abigail

Greetings, Princess...it is us, your lowly subjects, here to answer your letter. First off, we hope that if your house was on fire, you'd leave and not keep reading NEW EXCALIBUR. If you died in that fire, it'd be too sad. (Plus, we'd lose a reader!) And Nocturne has always had a retractable tail. Check your EXILES issues. Sometimes she has a tail, sometimes she doesn't. Clearly that sucker's retractable. What other secrets does Nocturne have? Keep reading!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Well, well. Bad versions of the original X-Men. I wonder where they came from? Since Professor X shows up at the end, shouldn't Cerebra be picking him up? After all, 616 Xavier has vanished (temporarily, I hope). I would think the X-Men would have some sort of automatic search program running. Of course that's a different book, but they are supposed to be in the same world, right?

It's nice to see Brian back, but is he Captain Britain again? If so, what about Kelsey (from Avengers)? Does she get demoted or what? Looking forward to issue #2!

Marie Brainovich

Hi, Marie. Good questions! First, you may not have read it, but in the HOUSE OF M: THE DAY AFTER one-shot, Cyclops asked Nightcrawler to investigate a large spike of mutant energy that Cerebra detected in London. Could that be this strange evil bald man and his minions?

As for Kelsey from AVENGERS, check out next issue, Marie. That's her on the cover!

Well, that's it for this month, folks. Be sure to keep writing in, and we'll keep answering! Cheerio!



OH CAPTAINS,
MY CAPTAINS!

SEAN RYAN
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

NICK LOWE
ASSOCIATE
EDITOR

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SWORD STROKES c/o MARVEL COMICS
417 5TH AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10016

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XVII Scan